

I am deeply disappointed that this bill zeros out funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). FLAP is the only federal program that supports K-12 foreign language education which is critical to our nation's economic and national security. Rather than ending this successful program we should be working to strengthen it. I will redouble my efforts to restore this critical funding next year.

This bill rejected attacks on our nation's arts and culture and provides the full \$146 million requested the National Endowment for the Humanities and the full \$146 million requested for the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts and humanities are good for our society at large and significant contributors to our economic development as well.

Another of my many disappointments with this bill is the 17 percent cut to grant programs for firefighters and other first responders. Natural and man-made disasters don't take a holiday, and neither should our support for our firefighters, EMS, and other first responders. This cut is irresponsible, and it will endanger public safety.

Unfortunately, the majority insisted on including some controversial policy riders in this appropriations bill. I am disappointed that the agreement includes a provision that would change responsibility for enforcement of the Clean Air Act on the Outer Continental Shelf from the EPA to the Department of the Interior. The EPA has been successfully enforcing the Clean Air Act for over forty years. EPA scientists understand the law and how to keep the air we breathe clean and safe. We must work to ensure that the Clean Air Act is still fully enforced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

I am also disappointed that the majority insisted on rolling back successful innovation in the lighting industry by mandating in this legislation that agencies cannot enforce energy efficient standards for light bulbs. Congress has a responsibility to maintain regulatory certainty that encourages the private sector to make needed investments in research, development, and innovation. This policy rider turns back the innovation clock in the lighting industry.

Regrettably, the conference report contains \$35 million for the United Nations Population Fund rather than the \$65 million requested. Yet, I am pleased that it rejects the House Majority's attempt to cut all funding for the UNFPA which provides crucial reproductive health care, not abortion, to the world's poorest women. The conference report extends a policy rider on the District of Columbia, which prevents the District to spend its local money on women's health care services. Further, the conference report included \$5 million for failed "abstinence-only" programs, which have been shown to have no long-term positive effects.

This is not a perfect bill, but it prevents a looming government shutdown. Further, it provides funding increases for a number of critical programs and rejects many of the dangerous cuts contained in the funding bills that the House previously approved. I support passage of this bill despite its pessimistic view of what America could achieve through more ambitious funding of the programs covered under the bill.

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding H.R. 3672, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012:

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012, H.R. 3672
(Amounts in thousands)

	This Bill
DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT	
TITLE I—DISASTER RELIEF	
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	
Federal Emergency Management Agency	
Disaster Relief Fund (disaster relief category)	6,400,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL	
Corps of Engineers—Civil	
Mississippi River and Tributaries (disaster relief category) ..	802,000
Operation and Maintenance (disaster relief category)	534,000
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (disaster relief category)	388,000
Total, Corps of Engineers—Civil	1,724,000
Total, title I	8,124,000
TITLE II—COMBATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE	
Social Security Administration	
Limitation on Administrative Expenses	483,484
GRAND TOTAL	8,607,484
(Disaster relief category)	(8,124,000)

RECOGNIZING KEVIN HARRIGER
FOR BEING APPOINTED EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
PROGRAMS AND TRADE
LIAISON AT UNITED STATES
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin Harriger, a native of southwestern Pennsylvania, for being named Executive Director for agriculture inspection programs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), Office of Field Operations.

In his new capacity, he is responsible for overseeing USCBP's efforts to protect America's agricultural resources against the threats posed by domestic and foreign plant pests and diseases. Mr. Harriger is uniquely qualified to take on this role, as ensuring the safety of naturally-cultivated consumer products has been the principal cause of his career.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Harriger was the Deputy Executive Director for CBP's office of Agriculture Operational Oversight. As such, he was responsible for ensuring that USCP's agricultural inspection policies were being implemented smoothly and consistently. The skillfulness with which he executed the duties of this job are in large part a product of the experience he gained while working for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), both as a Regional Director in Raleigh and as a Special Assistant to the

Deputy Administrator for APHIS—PPQ in Conyers, Ga.

While with APHIS, he honed his knowledge of both agricultural policy and plant pathology. His expertise in both of these areas is a testament to his intelligence and dedication to his craft. While I am deeply impressed by his ability to understand and analyze esoteric scientific subjects and public policy, I am even more impressed by the passion he has shown for using this ability to promote the greater good. All of us should use our talents for such selfless purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Kevin Harriger on this appointment and thank him for his many years of public service.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARSHAND
CRISLER FOR HIS DEDICATION
AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY
AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marshand Crisler. A lifetime Jackson resident, Mr. Crisler was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1968 to Johnny and Rosia Crisler. Mr. Crisler attended elementary and junior high school in Utica, Mississippi, before transferring to the Jackson Public Schools District and graduating from Provine High School. He pursued higher education at Hinds Community College where he received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he served in the Persian Gulf War. In 1992, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marines and joined the Hinds County Sheriffs Department as a narcotics investigator and held several assignments as a contract agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the FBI and DEA. In 1993, he received the distinguished meritorious award of valor for acts of courage and being shot in the line of duty.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard where he served as Headquarters Detachment Commander for the 112th Military Police Battalion and later in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded several war time commendations, including the "Army Commendation Medal." He later transferred to the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Security Forces Squadron where he was promoted to the rank of Major and served as Deputy Director of Security Forces. Mr. Crisler recently retired as a Major after 21 years in the U.S. Armed Forces.

While working for the Sheriffs Department, Mr. Crisler graduated from Jackson State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Corrective Services. In January of 1999, he accepted the position of Police Chief of the Utica Police Department, and became the first African American to serve in this capacity. In the summer of 1999 he returned to the Hinds County Sheriffs Department, where he remained for 17 years.

In 2001, Mr. Crisler was elected to the Jackson City Council becoming the first African American to hold the position of Ward 6 Councilman. He served three terms as President of

the Jackson City Council. Mr. Crisler continued his studies and received a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University in spring 2007. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University and has completed his first year of study.

Mr. Crisler is also actively involved in numerous youth mentoring projects, including a pilot program he initiated and the Excel to Achieve Program which recognizes today's youth for their academic and civic achievements. Mr. Crisler is a member of several noteworthy civic organizations including the Community In Schools (CIS), NAACP, Masonic Order PHA/F&AM, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc., the Willowood Developmental Center Board of Directors, the Mississippi Police and Sheriffs Association, and the Hinds County Community College Dropout Recovery Advisory Board and VFW Post 9832.

Mr. Crisler has been married twenty-four years to the former Charlotte Nichols and they have three wonderful children. Mr. Crisler's goal is to contribute to the success of the generations that follow by setting a positive example and staying actively involved in the advancement and refinement of today's youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Marshand Crisler for his dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLINICA SIERRA VISTA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Clinica Sierra Vista, a comprehensive health care organization, for 40 years of impeccable service to the people of Central California. For four decades, Clinica Sierra Vista has worked to provide all-inclusive, primary care to medically underserved populations, particularly migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Located in California's agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, Clinica Sierra Vista's health centers have served the people of the Central Valley since 1971. The health care network includes 23 primary care community health centers (14 in Kern County, 8 in Fresno County, and 1 in Inyo County); six dental centers; one medical mobile clinic; one dental mobile clinic; six behavioral health centers; and three Family Resource Centers. Clinica Sierra Vista has come a long way since its modest beginnings in a storefront warehouse in rural Lamont, California. Today, Clinica Sierra Vista has more than 900 employees and is one of the largest non-profit health organizations in the nation.

Clinica Sierra Vista has a reputation for providing high quality service, while efficiently managing costs. At Clinica Sierra Vista, no one is ever denied service based on their ability to pay and the patient's well-being is always Clinica Sierra Vista's goal. Accomplishing such a task requires innovative thinking and steadfast leadership. The board members, staff, and health care professionals who have contributed to Clinica Sierra Vista's success should be proud of their work, which is reflected in the health of the community.

In addition to providing primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care to Central California's urban and rural communities, Clinica Sierra Vista also provides lifesaving health education and health promotion programs. These initiatives are instrumental in ensuring that the Valley's communities can have healthy and productive futures.

Clinica Sierra Vista's board and staff recognize that obtaining a healthy community means working closely with external partners, including: government agencies, neighborhood groups, elected officials and community leaders. As one of the largest comprehensive community health centers in the state, Clinica Sierra Vista serves as many people as possible, while maintaining a clear and comprehensive understating of their patient's needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Clinica Sierra Vista as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. The formation and success of Clinica Sierra Vista has been vital to ensuring that members of Central California's urban and rural communities have access to comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health care. By maintaining a steadfast focus on the health and future of the San Joaquin Valley and California, Clinica Sierra Vista has been a leader in health care and an asset to the people of the California's Central Valley.

RECOGNIZING JON SCHNEIDER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Jonathan M. Schneider, my departing Deputy Chief of Staff who was recently appointed the Deputy County Executive for Intergovernmental Affairs for Suffolk County, New York.

Since he became one of my original staffers in 2003, Jon has distinguished himself as a public servant through hard work and dedication to the people of Eastern Long Island. His policy expertise in transportation and environment issues, skill in crafting effective public communications, and perceptive political insights have been invaluable to me over the past nine years.

As district director, Jon led a first-class constituent service program that has assisted thousands of veterans, senior citizens, and others in need of a helping hand. My constituents have also benefited from his skilled advocacy of infrastructure projects including the dredging of Lake Montauk and Shinnecock Inlets and environmental initiatives such as the federal Forge River Study and the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study.

Guiding these projects through from conception to completion required close collaboration with officials at all levels of government as well as civic groups and community advocacy organizations. Over the years, Jon has built a sterling reputation for professionalism and collegiality that has aided my efforts to deliver federal solutions for local problems.

Given my first-hand knowledge of Jon's skill as an intergovernmental liaison, I am confident that the people of Suffolk County will benefit tremendously from his service as Deputy

County Executive. I am also pleased that his new role will allow us to continue working together, as my Congressional district is contained entirely within Suffolk County.

I am also pleased that Jon will continue to reside in Port Jefferson Station with his wife, Mary Ellen, precocious daughter Ellie, his son future New York Giants linebacker Benjamin, and Boris, the famous tortoise.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my staff and the people of the First Congressional District of New York, I sincerely thank Jonathan M. Schneider for his efforts to improve the quality of life on Eastern Long Island and his continuing commitment to public service. I wish him and his family continued success, good health and the best of luck for years to come.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT GRIFFIN III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

H. RES.—

Recognizing and commending Baylor University quarterback Robert Griffin III for winning the 2011 Heisman Trophy and for his academic and athletic accomplishments.

Whereas Robert Griffin III was born on February 12, 1990, to United States Army Sergeants Robert Jr. and Jacqueline Griffin in Okinawa, Japan;

Whereas Robert Griffin III's mother and father have instilled in him an unparalleled work ethic, outstanding leadership, discipline, and a desire to excel;

Whereas Robert Griffin III graduated No. 7 from Copperas Cove High School, in Copperas Cove, Texas, in 2008;

Whereas Robert Griffin III graduated from the Baylor University with a 3.67 GPA in Political Science in December of 2010;

Whereas Robert Griffin III is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Communication at the Baylor University;

Whereas Robert Griffin III became Baylor University's starting quarterback in 2008;

Whereas the University of Baylor football team finished the regular season with a 9-3 record, its best record since 1986;

Whereas the University of Baylor football team is ranked number twelve in the Bowl Championship Series and fifteen in the Associated Press rankings;

Whereas in 2011 Robert Griffin III completed 267 of 369 passes, for 3,998 yards and 36 touchdowns while throwing only 6 interceptions;

Whereas in 2011 Robert Griffin III lead college football with a 192.3 passing efficiency rating, which would break the single-season record in Football Bowl Subdivision history;

Whereas Robert Griffin III has accounted for 10,071 yards passing and 77 touchdowns, with only 17 interceptions, during his career at Baylor University;

Whereas Robert Griffin III is the Baylor career leader in most offensive categories, including passing yards, passing touchdowns, and rushing touchdowns by a quarterback;

Whereas Robert Griffin III was named the Big 12 Conference Offensive Player of the Year for 2011;

Whereas Robert Griffin III was named Academic All-Big 12, 1st Team for 2011;

Whereas Robert Griffin III received the Davey O'Brien Award for the best of all National Collegiate Athletic Association quarterbacks in 2011; and